



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**CHESTERTON UTILITIES
WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE I
SRF # WW 13 10 64 02**

Date: February 28, 2013

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the town's Preliminary Engineering Report will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a preliminary decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

How were environmental issues considered?

The National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement.

Why is additional environmental review not required?

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

How do I submit comments?

Comments can be submitted to:

Mrs. April Douglas,
Senior Environmental Manager
SRF Programs
317-234-7294; adouglas@ifa.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: **Wastewater System Improvements Phase I**
Chesterton Utility Service Board
726 Broadway
Chesterton, IN 46304

SRF Project Number: WW 13 10 64 02

Authorized Representative: Mr. Lawrence Brandt, Board Chairman

II. PROJECT LOCATION

Chesterton is located in Porter County in northern Indiana, approximately 20 miles east of Gary. The proposed projects are located throughout Chesterton. The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is located in the Chesterton USGS quadrangle, Township 37 North, Range 6 West, section 26. The collection system projects are located in the Chesterton USGS quadrangle, T36N, R6W, sections 1, 2 and 3; T37N, R6W, sections 35 and 36; and T36N, R5W, section 7. See Figure 1.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The proposed wastewater treatment plant improvements include: replace one aeration blower with a high efficiency blower and controls; replace aeration tank diffusers and aeration piping; add flow split valving to aeration tank effluent piping; add a sludge thickener; replace a sludge conveyor and add two additional sludge conveyors; clean and repair a digester; upgrade the digester gas control and waste burner system; and replace the backup power generator. See Figure 2.

The proposed collection system improvements include: electrical upgrades at the Dogwood and Golfview lift stations, installation of a backup power generator at the Westwood lift station, rehabilitation of approximately 2,200 feet of sanitary sewer pipe with cured-in-place pipe, and rehabilitation of five manholes by protective coating. See Figure 1.

The projects are necessary for efficient operation. The plant equipment replacements and upgrades will provide much needed improvements for more efficient operation and continued compliance. The lift stations will have reduced power consumption and improved reliability. Sewer lining will repair corrosion and reduce infiltration/inflow into the collection system. Protective coating of the five manholes will also reduce infiltration/inflow and prevent failure due to hydrogen sulfide corrosion.

The No Action alternative was rejected. The problems at the WWTP, lift stations, sewer pipes, and manholes would remain unchanged. The potential for failures, continued

corrosion and maintenance issues with the collection system would continue, the lift stations would continue to consume unnecessary energy, and the plant would eventually cease to operate in compliance with its discharge permit.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

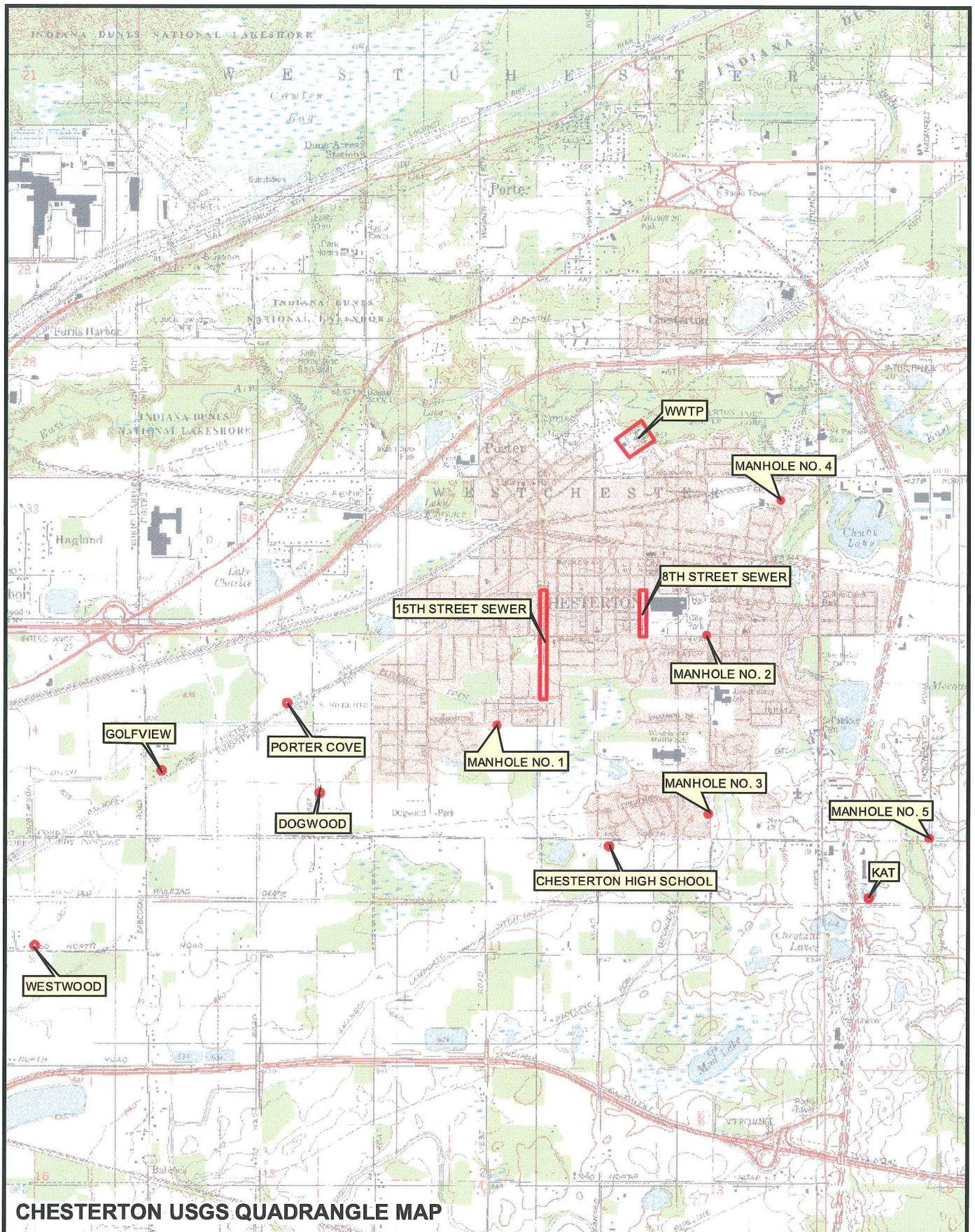
Total cost of the Phase I project is estimated to be approximately \$3,621,000. Chesterton will finance the project with a loan from the State Revolving Fund Loan Program for a 20-year term at an annual fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

Construction and operation of the project will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties (figures 3-6). If any visual or audible impacts to historic properties occur, they will be temporary and will not alter the characteristics that qualify such properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on October 29, 2012 at 6 pm at the Chesterton Town Hall, 726 Broadway. There were no questions during the hearing regarding Phase I. No written comments were received in the 5-day period following the hearing.



CHESTERTON USGS QUADRANGLE MAP

TOWN OF CHESTERTON, INDIANA

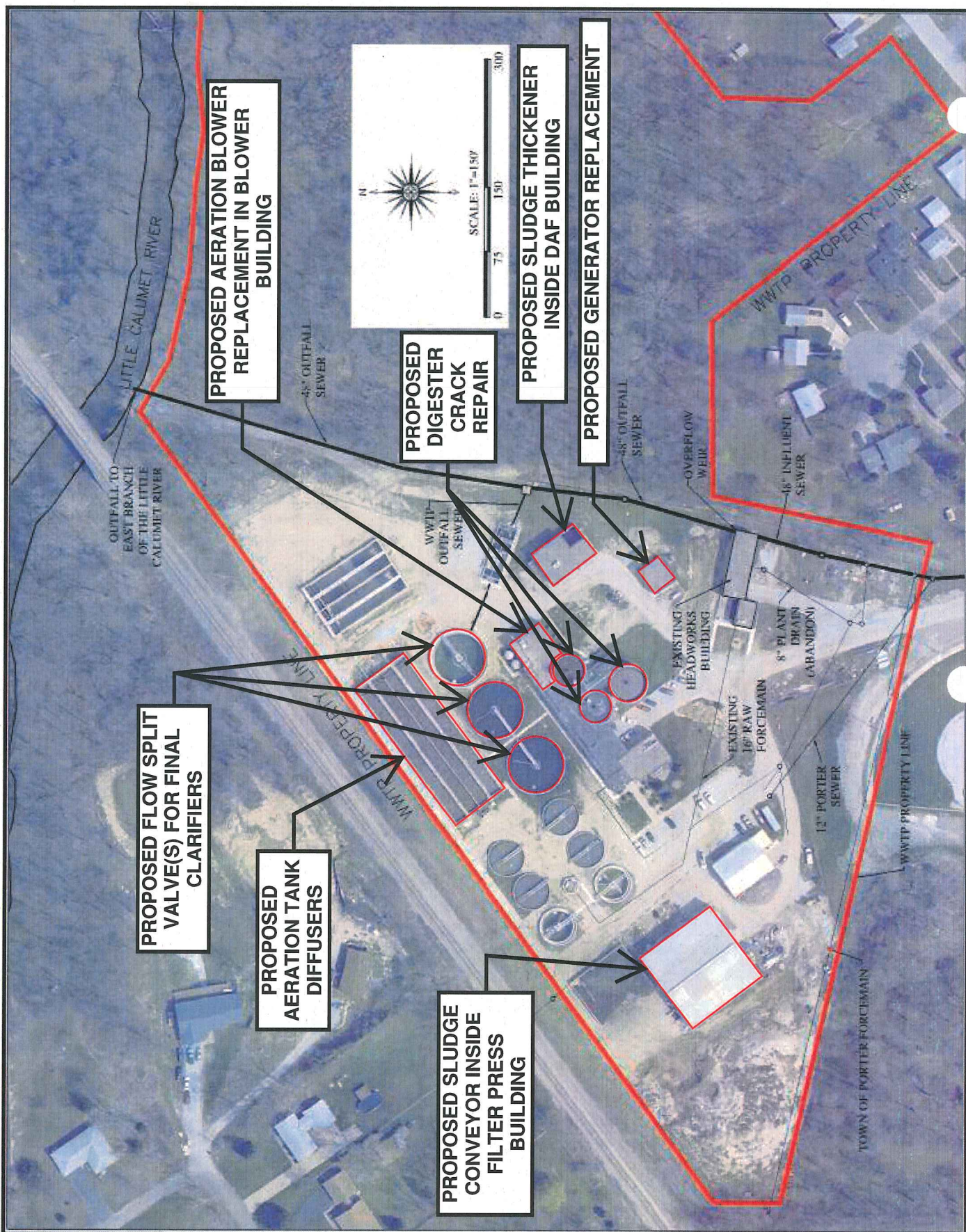
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

0 1,500 3,000 4,500 6,000

SCALE IN FEET



FIG. 1



TOWN OF CHESTERTON, INDIANA

PROPOSED CHESTERTON WWTP
IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE I

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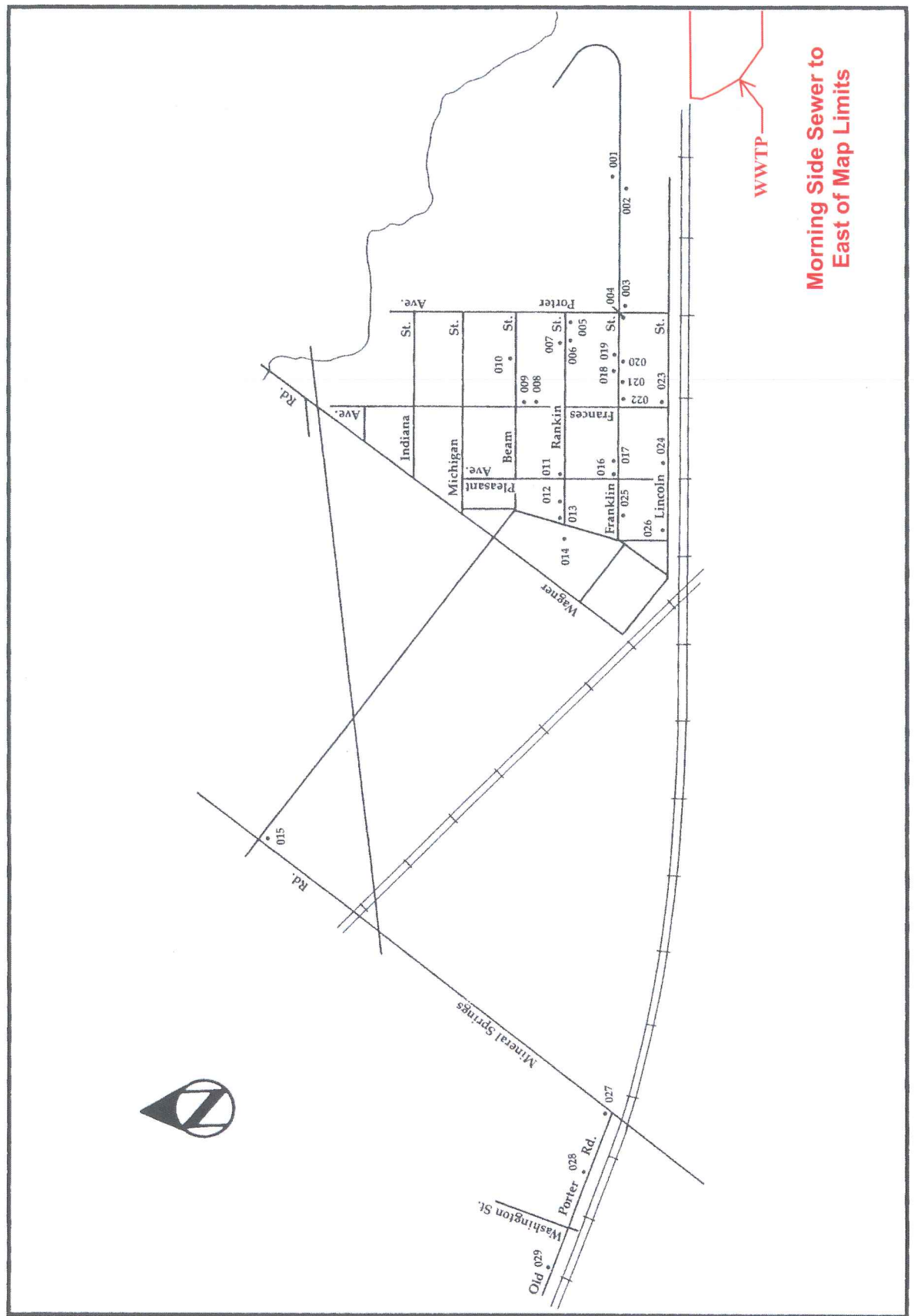
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INDIANA FINANCE AUTHORITY
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

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Figure 2

Porter Scattered Sites (06001-029)



TOWN OF CHESTERTON, INDIANA

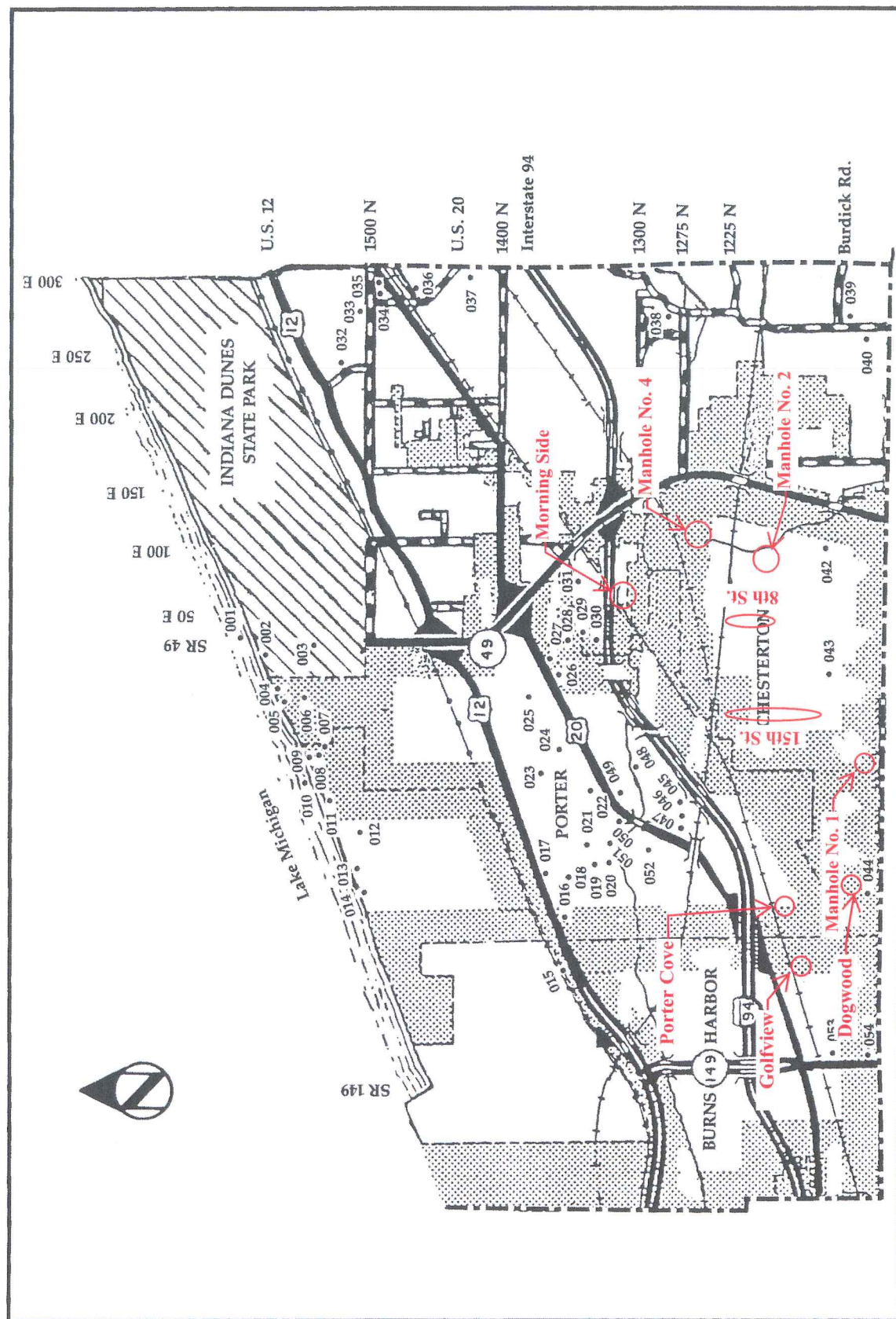
HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES
INVENTORY INTERIM REPORT MAP

BACKGROUND IMAGE:
INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND
STRUCTURE INVENTORY,
PORTER COUNTY INTERIM
REPORT (1991)



FIGURE 3

Westchester Township (05001-054)



TOWN OF CHESTERTON, INDIANA

HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES
INVENTORY INTERIM REPORT MAP

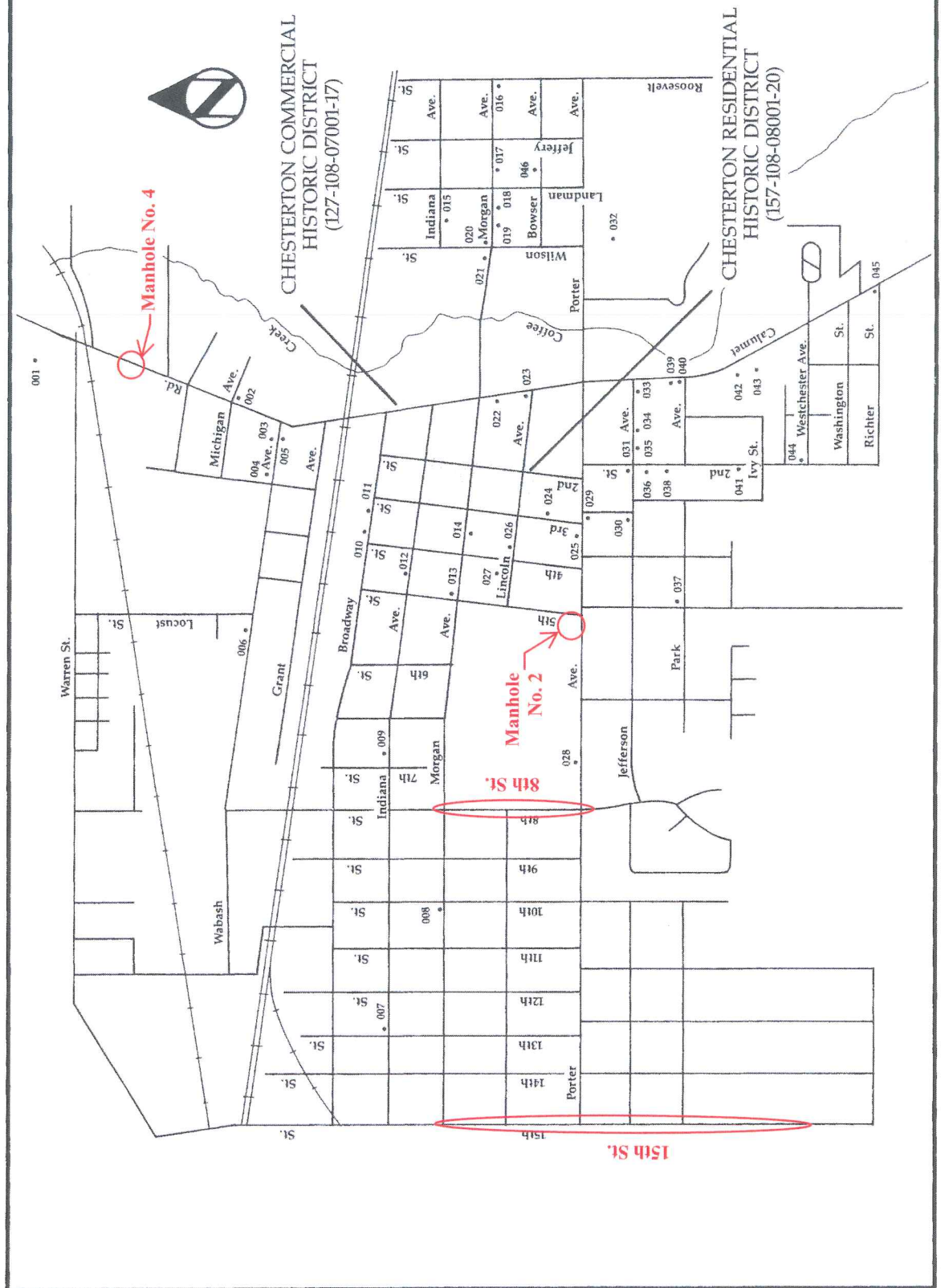
BACKGROUND IMAGE:
INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND
STRUCTURE INVENTORY,
PORTER COUNTY INTERIM
REPORT (1991)



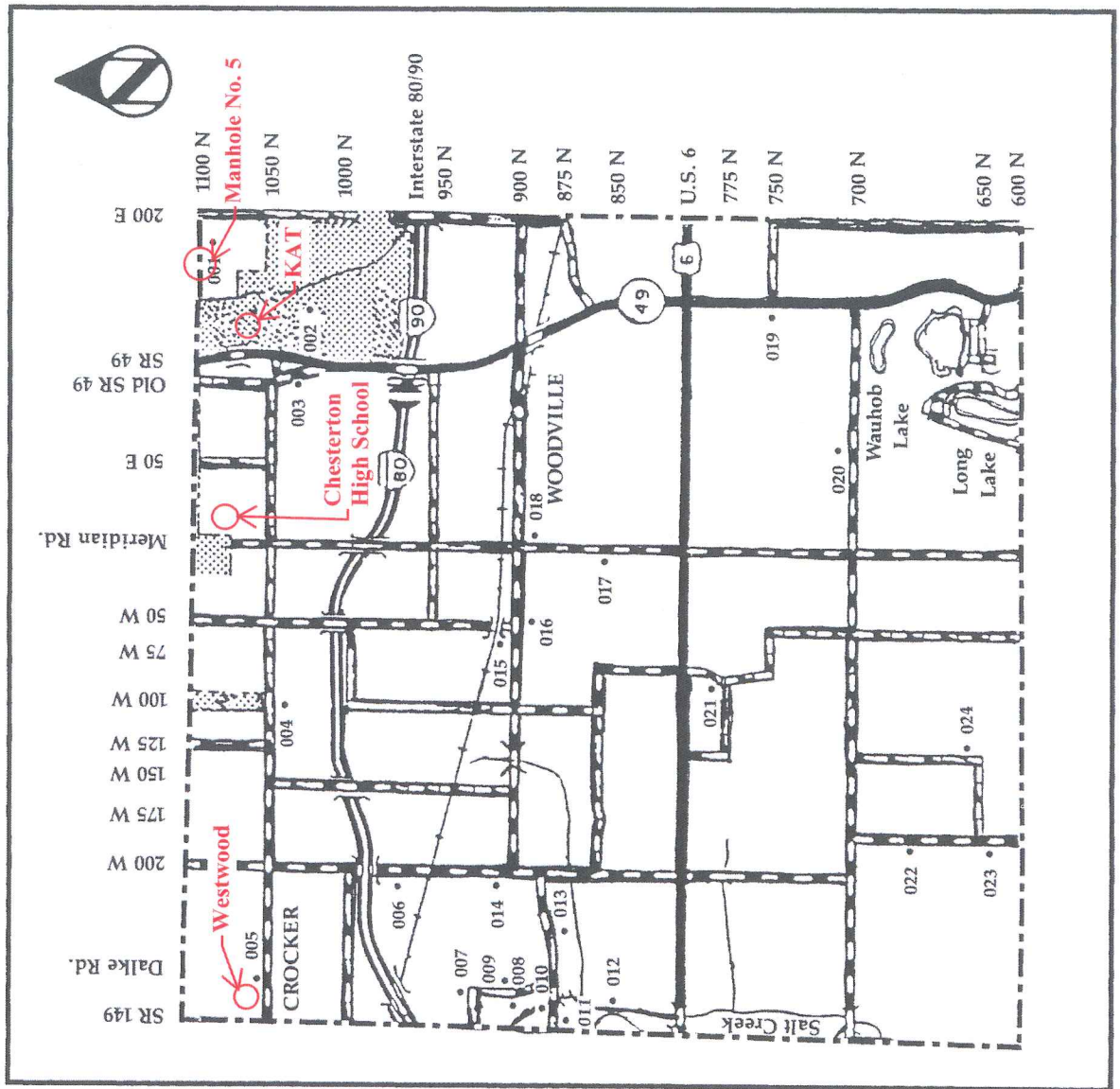
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FIGURE 4

HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY INTERIM REPORT MAP



Liberty Township (15001-024)



Liberty Township was organized by the county board of commissioners in 1836. The township was once heavily timbered which caused a great deal of land speculation and slow settlement. Long Lake lies in the lower southeast corner and connects with Flint Lake in Center Township. Coffee Creek, which lies in the northeast corner, and Salt Creek, which flows along the western border, are the township's two major streams.

The township's first settler was Owen Crumpacker who came in 1834, followed by William Downing and Jerry Todhunter. Several other settlers arrived in the following years and three settlements were established: the Salt Creek Settlement in the township's western section; the Zane Settlement in the central; and the Dillingham Settlement in the eastern section.

There were a large number of mills built in the township, none of which survive today. The first mill was built in 1836 on Damon Run by Samuel Olinger. Another early mill was built in 1838 by William Gossett on the east bank of Salt Creek. About 1854 Brown and Sellers built a sawmill on Coffee Creek. However, the mill was short-lived and fell into disrepair. In 1870, David Long built another mill just below the site of the old mill. In 1875 Long replaced it with a new gristmill at a cost of between \$5,000 and \$6,000. Unfortunately all that remains is a visible dry mill race adjacent to a house (15002) on 1050 N.

In 1851 a plank road was built from Valparaiso to Michigan City in La Porte County. By the late 19th century, a number of railroads passed through the township. The Baltimore and Ohio, the Wabash Railroad, and the Elgin, Joliet Eastern Railroad all came through Liberty Township. The village of Crocker was located at the junction of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern (EJE) and the Baltimore and Ohio lines. Much of the land on which Crocker was laid out was owned by Charles La Haven, Sr. and his brother, Fred. In 1891 La Haven sold a portion of his

TOWN OF CHESTERTON, INDIANA

HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES
INVENTORY INTERIM REPORT MAP

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FIGURE 6